

ATTACHMENT - REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1-3 and 5-12, and canceled claim 4. Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show the inclined filter holder recited in claim 3. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to identify the alternative embodiment in which the filter holder 301 is inclined from 10° to 30° with respect to the longitudinal axis of the machine. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph with regard to the manner in which the supply unit is coupled to the holder. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly recite how the supply unit is coupled to the filter holder. Referring to the specification for exemplary purposes only, and to in no way limit the scope of the claimed invention, the supply unit 20 is coupled to filter holder 301 using a hatch 1, in which one end of hatch 1 is attached to the machine via hinge 111, and an end opposite hinge 111 is releasably coupled on a wall of the body of the machine via tooth 121. See, e.g., Figures 3 and 5 and the specification, page 4, line 32-page 6, line 31. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection to the claims be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,253,385 (Illy) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,384,004 (Perlman).

However, the Examiner noted that claims 2-12 would be allowable over the prior art. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate what Applicant believes to be the allowable subject matter previously recited in claim 4.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 has now been amended to be in accordance with the claims granted in the corresponding EPO application, now issued as EP 1 635 680 B1. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art, individually or in combination, fails to teach or in any way make obvious the claimed filter holder means. The claimed filter holder means has a hatch which is hinged at one end to a body of a machine. The hatch has an end opposite the hinge, which has releasable couple means designed to be coupled to suitable coupling means positioned on a wall of the body of the machine. In contrast to the claimed invention, the filter holder 22 (Perlman) does not comprise a hatch hinged to the machine on one end and coupled to the wall of the body of the machine on an end opposite the hinge.

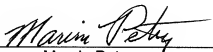
Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not obvious in view of the cited art. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-3 and 5-12, which depend from claim 1, are not obvious in view of the prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 1, discussed above, and further for reciting initial elements in combination with the subject matter of claim 1 which are not obvious in view of the prior art. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Signed By
Attorney of Record


Name: Marvin Petry
Registration No.: 22,752

STITES & HARBISON PLC ♦ 1199 North Fairfax St. ♦ Suite 900 ♦ Alexandria, VA 22314
TEL: 703-739-4900 ♦ FAX: 703-739-9577 ♦ CUSTOMER NO. 881